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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/641,773	
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	First Named Inventor	Goguen	
	Art Unit	2857	
	Examiner Name	Tsai	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	100157-140

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PATENT

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Applicant: Goguen et al.

Examiner: Tsai

Serial No.: 09/641,773

Art Unit: 2857

Filed: August 18, 2000

For: Post Test Data Processing of a Mass Storage System

Commissioner for Patents
Box 1450,
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Jody Begley

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

An Office Action was issued on June 3, 2003, in which the Examiner (1) rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,953,689 issued to Hale ("Hale") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,550,998 issued to Willis et al. ("Willis"), and (2) rejected Claims 4 and 5 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hale in view of Willis and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,633,471 issued to Perera et al. ("Perera"). Reconsideration and allowance of the application are requested.

In rejecting Claims 1-3 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hale in view of Willis, the Examiner states that Hale discloses all of the claim elements except processing the accumulated data regarding the performance of the mass storage system in response to the host generated commands, the processing comprising validating and

correcting, as required, the accumulated data. The Examiner contends, however, that Willis teaches this step (in col. 9, line 21 to col. 11, line 32), and that it would have been obvious to modify Hale to include this step. These claim rejections are respectfully traversed.

Willis discloses a process for improving performance in data storage systems. In particular, Willis discloses a method for improving reading and writing performance by "pre-seeking" optimal locations on a disk for performing read/write operations during idle time between operations. Pre-seeking refers to anticipating the next location for a read operation on a disk (col. 2, lines 8-10).

Willis does not disclose or suggest processing any accumulated data regarding mass storage system performance by validating and correcting, as required, the accumulated data. Willis, by contrast, only discloses a process for determining whether a disk controller is sufficiently idle so as to justify performing a pre-seek. For example, in the portion of the reference cited by the Examiner, Willis discloses the process of timing the intervals between a sequential number of read and write operations, averaging the times for a predetermined number of the last sequential operations and comparing the average to a threshold. If the average is greater than the threshold, indicating a higher amount of activity, pre-seeking is abandoned. If the average is less than the threshold, indicating a lower amount of activity, pre-seeking is enabled.

Willis does not teach or in any way suggest validating and correcting any data relating to system performance. Willis also does not recognize any need for or otherwise suggest processing accumulated data on system performance, much less by validating and correcting it, as required.

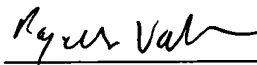
Validating data as used herein means to check the data for errors. As a non-limiting example described in the specification, validation can feature checking individual data points for errors by applying predetermined decision criteria to the data points. Thereafter, the data can be corrected, as required. It is unclear whether the

Examiner's position is that any data resulting from timing the intervals between a sequential number of read and write operations is "said accumulated data." If so, an explanation is requested as to how Willis validates and corrects, as required, this data. Willis, however, does not do this. It only analyzes this data to determine if pre-seeking can be justified, which is very different from validating and correcting the data, as required.

Therefore, even assuming that the Examiner's combination of Willis and Hale is proper under §103, the combination does not teach (or even suggest) each and every limitation of the claims as required for a rejection under §103. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the combination of the Hale and Willis references. Claims 2-5 are dependent on Claim 1 and are similarly allowable. The other cited reference, Perrera, does not cure the deficiencies of Willis.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. As the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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